

Application No. 09/919,561
Filed: 7/31/01
Group Art Unit: 1774

REMARKS

1. This is in response to the Office Action mailed 10/03/02. Claims 4-6 remain pending in this application.

2. Claims 1 to 3 have been cancelled and new claims 4 to 6 are submitted, with the correction of the wording pointed out by the Examiner in the Detailed Action, item 1. Claims 4 and 5 have been formed by incorporating original claim 3 into original claim 2.

As original claims 1 and 2 are canceled and new claims do not include original claims 1 and 2 in their whole scopes, claim rejections under U.S.C. 102 have been overcome.

With respect to the rejection under U.S.C. 103, the application would like to traverse with reference to the Declaration attached hereto, as follows.

The main object of the present invention is to provide an insulator which comprises a material being natural and thus friendly to the environment and also exhibits high insulation performance. The insulation of the present invention according to new claim 4 is a specific insulator comprising a natural feathered fiber and core sheath composite synthetic fiber.

Kean et al. (USP 5,491,186) teaches the insulation batt made of a secondary cellulose fiber, a binder fiber including a

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sheath/core fiber, and optionally a lofting fiber. However, Kean et al. does not mention the use of a natural feathered fiber. Whereas, Applicant's Declaration demonstrates that the natural feathered fiber insulator exhibits the insulation performance capability which is significantly superior to that of an insulation batt according to Kean et al.

Gassner '608 describes a process for converting components of a feather-waste stream to a fiber, protein and an oil. But, Gassner '608 mentions nothing about the insulation capability of a feathered fiber composition.

Keller '900 discloses a mat comprising a feather fibers and a thermoplastic binder which is advantageous in that it is lighter than current foam products ([0010]). Keller '900 also does not mention the insulation performance capability of the material.

From the above, it is clear that an insulator having a specific combination of materials according to new claims 4 to 6 as an insulator exhibiting significantly improved insulation performance capability can not be suggested by any combination of Gassner '608, Keller '900 and Kean et al.

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The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned attorney to discuss any matter that would expedite allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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